

REMARKS

Claims 29-35, 37-38, 49-53 and 59-61 are active and under consideration. Claims 1-28, 36, 39-48 and 54-58 have been previously cancelled. Independent claims 29 and 49 are currently amended.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29-35, 37, 38, 49-53 and 56-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,122) in view of EP 0967834. Applicants traverse all rejections and ask for reconsideration and allowance in light of the following arguments.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations; there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings; and there must be a reasonable expectation of success. MPEP § 2143. Nowhere within these references does either teach the combination the Examiner has chosen to combine, and there was no reasonable expectation of success in the combination until the instant invention. Many other compounds were available to one skilled in the art, and no skilled practitioner knew with certainty which would function in this application without experimentation.

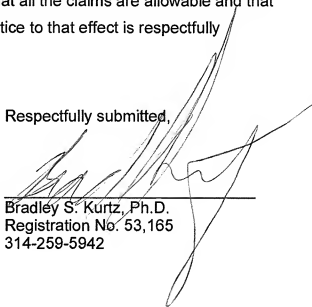
Although Applicant believes there was no motivation to combine these references (and even if combined, no reasonable expectation of success), Applicant has modified certain independent claims to hasten allowance. Kijima teaches an aminostyryl compound (see page 3 of the Office Action of October 18, 2006) and the EP reference teaches the same aminostyryl compound of the instant invention. Applicant has modified all claims to remove the aminostyryl compounds of the reference (e.g. the (17)-1 to (17)-6 and (18)-1 to (18)-6 compounds from the independent claim 29 and 49).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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